

2019 Yukon Middle Distance Orienteering Championships

June 5, 2019

Location: Grey Mountain Biathlon Trails

Organizers: Forest Pearson & Kris Gardner

The new Grey Mountain Biathlon trails map was the site of the first of the three 2019 Yukon Orienteering Championships Races, with tonight being the technical Middle Distance discipline. The race used the new map that has only been used once before for last year's North American Orienteering Relay Championships.

The Middle Distance discipline is a relatively shorter forest orienteering race with the winners completing the courses in about 30 minutes. But they are challenged by a very technical navigation course, having to make quick decisions with many twists and turns in complex terrain—all of this while running through the beautiful, lupin-filled open pine forest of the biathlon ski trails. However, the complex trail-maze of the biathlon ski trail network added a new twist to the navigation challenge!

Courses were relatively short in distance due to the physically challenging nature of the terrain—deep moss, rocky cliff sides and lots of deadfall made the forest running very demanding. None the less, Leif Blake powered through terrain and intermittent rain-showers to complete the Expert course 4 minutes faster than expected. Second and third place in the Expert course were the ever-strong Caelan McLean and Brent Langbakk in 30:20 and 32:24 minutes respectively.



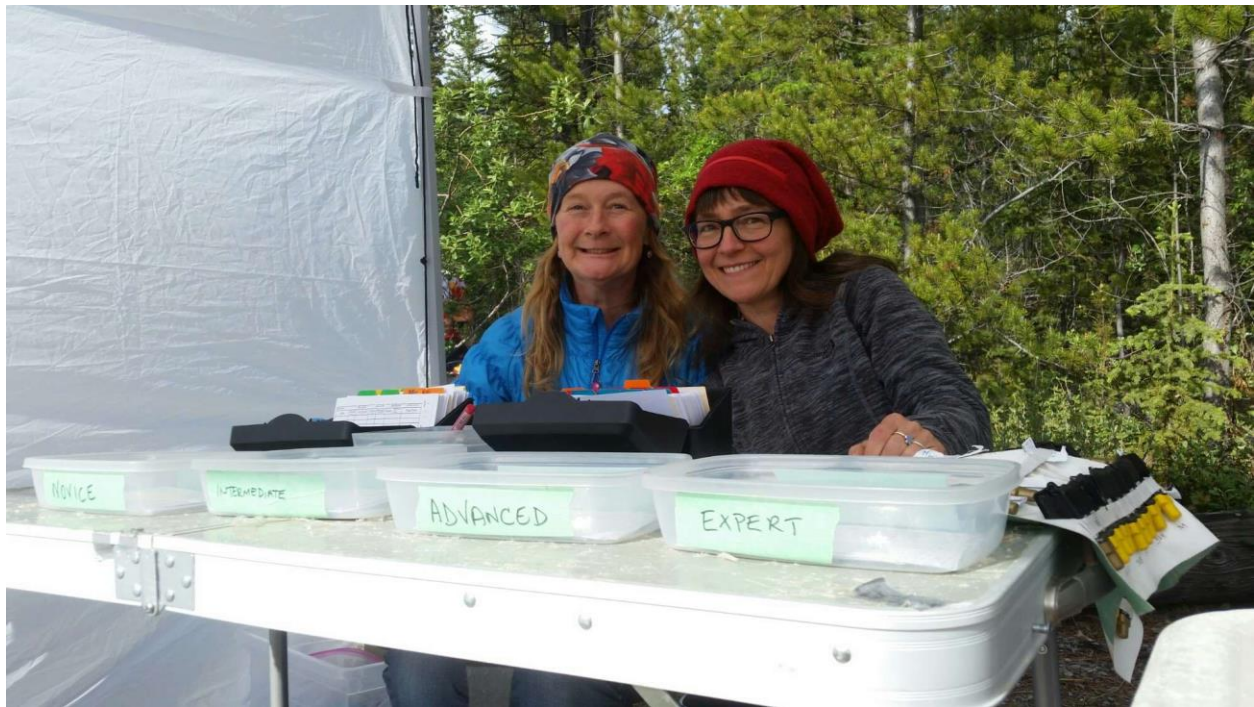
Dark clouds add an extra layer of challenge to tonight orienteering race.

The shorter, but equally technically challenging Advance course was won by Erik Blake in 32:02 with Jane Hollenberg and Jeremy Johnson in second and third.

The Intermediate course was the most popular with 35 people attempting this course. Fastest around was Virginia Sarrazin in 33:47 followed by Pauline Gallinat and the team of Selena Boothroyd & Scott Williams in second and third. Interestingly Sheri Hogdeboom and Lenore Morris tied for fourth place at 44:51!

16 new orienteers and juniors successfully completed the Novice course. A few surprises were in store for the Novice orienteers, including a velociraptor as checkpoint number 4! (The biathlon ski trails are also home to Whitehorse's wildland archery 3D targets which are a variety of full-size animal targets, including dinosaurs).

Big Thanks to volunteers: Georgi Pearson, Lara Melnik, Darren Holcombe and Bruce McLean. Many hands make light work.



The Happy Registration Crew of Georgi and Lara kept the sign-up line-up short and moving efficiently!

Novice: 1.1 km, 8 controls (16 participants)

Stian Langbakk	11:55
Morel Graham & River Horne	12:35
Peter & Kevin Embacher	19:29
Erik Embacher	19:38
Leslie van Tongeren	21:45
Tommy & Christine McConnell	23:51
Mallory & Krysti Horton	24:18
Henri & Dave Rogers	25:25
Sarah Johnson	25:25
Carl Embacher	25:25
Maura Glenn	26:40

Intermediate: 2.5 km, 11 controls (35 participants)

1. Virginia Sarrazin	33:47
2. Pauline Gallinat	35:46
3. Selena Boothroyd & Scott Williams	40:54
4. Sheri Hogdeboom	42:51
4. Lenore Morris	42:51
6. Paxon Lipovsky	46:08
7. Kate & Pat Tobler	47:31
8. Krystal Karais	56:52
9. Iliana, Aurelia & Glenda Koh	58:05
10. Stian Langbakk	59:20
11. Adney Karais	59:22
12. Deb Kiemele	61:42
13. Kieran Horton	64:05
14. Helen Slama	64:45
15. Kala Emond & Karin Keely-Eriksson	66:03
16. Eric Labreoque	67:16
17. Dianne Hart	68:45
18. Katherine Woodstock	71:39
19. Emily Kralisch-Sequin	72:29
20. Jonah McConnell	79:40
21. Aramintha Bradford	79:43
22. Finegand Bradford	79:49
23. Nesta Leduc	82:41
24. Ev Pasichnyk	87:46
25. Gwen Hogan	88:57
25. Beth Mulloy	88:57
27. Carl Turcotte & Rima Khouri	MP (53:21)
28. Anais Hildes & Cassi Jensen	DTB

Advanced: 2.6 km, 11 controls (11 participants)

1. Erik Blake	32:02
2. Jane Hollenberg	44:55
3. Jeremy Johnson	45:35
4. Bruce McLean	49:46
5. Lara Melnik	55:40
6. Micah Hildes	72:29
7. Julianna Scramstad	73:55
8. Craig Brooks	96:10
9. Emilie Stewart-Jones	MP (40:32)
10. Doug Hitch & Rene Dugrenier	MP (126:01)

Expert: 3.2 km, 13 controls (12 participants)

1. Leif Blake	26:31
2. Caelan McLean	30:20
3. Brent Langbakk	32:24
4. David Bakker	34:02
5. Pia Blake	36:20
6. Dave Hildes	41:04
7. Ben Hancock	48:11
8. Bob Sagar	67:05
9. Matthias Purdon	67:10
10. Brian Horton	73:10
11. Darren Holcombe	MP (42:12)
12. Afan Jones	MP (43:29)

74 Participants total